

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE
NATIONAL CAPITAL AND EXTERNAL TERRITORIES**

Inquiry into the provision of amenity within the Parliamentary Triangle

Chair: Senator Louise Pratt

Improving amenity in the Central National Area

The National Capital Committee has today presented its report into the provision of amenity within the Parliamentary Triangle. The inquiry was prompted by the budget decision to introduce pay parking in the Central National Area from July 2014, and the Committee has chosen to apply its report and recommendations to the entire area, taking in Parkes, Barton, Russell and Acton.

The report makes three recommendations focused upon finding ways to improve amenity for workers and visitors in these areas. The Committee has recommended the development of a strategy for the provision of amenity within the Central National Area, incorporating:

- Provision of retail services
- Provision of parking
- Provision of access by public transport
- Provision of childcare
- Timelines for development
- Development responsibilities

It also requests that the Government provide funds for the development of the strategy in the 2014–15 budget. The Committee has also recommended that the NCA regularly report to the Committee on the development of amenities; and that a ‘park and ride’ facility be developed to improve access by public transport.

Committee Chair, Senator Louise Pratt, stated that: “In the past the lack of amenity has been a justification for free parking in the Central National Area. With the decision to implement pay parking on National Land from July 2014, the Committee believes that the Commonwealth has an obligation to provide better services to the large number of workers and visitors who travel to these precincts every day.”

Senator Pratt noted that car travel to and from the Central National Area is regarded as essential because of its isolation, lack of services, and slowness and inflexibility of public transport. “Reducing reliance on cars requires improved amenity”, she stated.

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, Senator Louise Pratt, on 0448 264 129

Copies of the report can be obtained from the committee’s webpage at

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives/Committees?url=ncet/amenity/report.htm

or by contacting the secretariat on (02) 6277 4355, or by email at jscncet@aph.gov.au